

Budget Crunch Begins

The General Fund relies on property tax and sales tax with additional State Funding as the main revenues so Facilities will see a change in next year's budget. Solid Waste relies on self support by fees collected for dumping. Three quarters of the budget year is past and our Road revenue is 1% behind what our revenues were last year. We are 5% below the amount we projected for this year. Our growth target did not foresee such a reduction. No one can predict the post-war impact but we can help ourselves by buying products in Gila County.

Our revenue for Roads consists of following three taxes. The *Vehicle License Tax (VLT)*, the *Highway User*

Revenue Fund (HURF) which is derived from tax on fuel purchases and is calculated at the State level for fuel purchases in Gila County. And lastly, our *One-Half Cent Sales Tax* revenue that earns us money when goods and services are purchased in Gila County.

Our spending overall in Public Works has been conservative this year. We have many projects to complete and many to begin. It may take longer than anticipated to finish them as we wait for funding, but as conscientious employees we can accomplish the tasks.

For information on personal finance, investing money, saving money & shopping, you can visit www.coopamerica.org.

Goals to a Healthier Lifestyle

According to the Gila County Board of Supervisors', this year's goal for the County Wellness Program is to provide important health screenings to covered employees and beneficiaries, and to increase awareness of wellness behaviors so that all county employees can move toward healthier lifestyles. They encourage us to: (1) Take advantage of the annual Health Fair, as well as the on-site screenings which occur throughout the year, including mammograms and screenings for cholesterol, diabetes and prostate cancer (PSA); (2) Take the Wellness Exam Form to your doctor to discuss your individual risk factors, as well as a plan to address any areas needing improvement; (3) Participate in at least one of the scheduled wellness activities that include the walking challenge, skin self-check challenge, or the 5-a-Day Challenge.

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Administration

Tony Lopez, Project Manager for Gila County Public Works Division, is currently busy working on the remodel of the Central Heights School for county offices. Other major county projects that Tony has helped work on include the construction of the new Detention Center, the demolition of the 4 Amigos Building, and other various undertakings. In his spare time, Tony enjoys spending time with his family, helping out at his church, and coaching the Globe High School Boys Basketball Team. Recently, the team beat Monument Valley 68-51 in the Class 3A State Championship at America West Arena in Phoenix Saturday, February 22. This game ended a perfect season. The Tigers are the only 3A team in state history to win 32 games and win a title. On March 4th, they were recognized for their outstanding achievement at the Board of Supervisors Meeting and were presented with a plaque. Congratulations. Tony has been with the Public Works Division since Fall 1999.



Engineering

The Engineering Department recently hired John Beene as the Gila County Engineer. John is recently retired from ADOT and a welcome addition to the department and the County. We have just filed our annual County Highway Mileage Report to the Motor Vehicle Division of ADOT. This report is one of the many sent to the State that ensures Gila County's share of HURF money. HURF is the Highway User Revenue Fund. All Counties, Cities, and Towns, receive HURF money from the State of Arizona based on Highway Miles, Vehicle License Tax, and a Fuel Tax. The Engineering Department recently provided assistance to the Roads Department during the flooding of Tonto Creek in Tonto Basin. As a result of the flooding, staff from Public Works along with District II Supervisor Joe Sanchez, met with representatives from



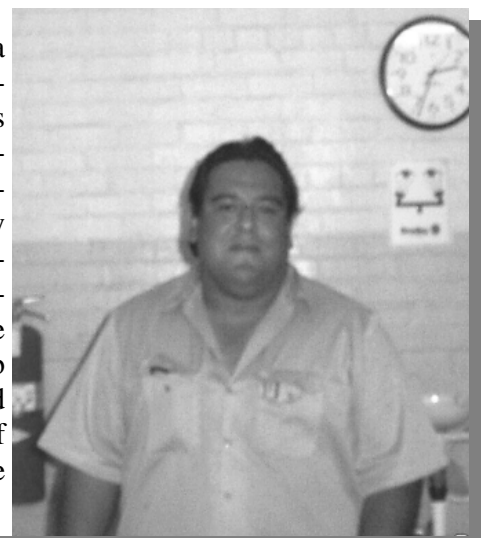
Governor Napolitano and Congressman Renzi's Offices and with representatives from the Tonto National Forest. It was decided at the meeting to petition the



Federal Government for money to begin an Environmental Analysis or an Environmental Impact Statement for a crossing on Tonto Creek. At this time it is not known what type or the location of the crossing.

Facilities Management

Gabriel (Gabe) Eylicio is a talented Building Maintenance Technician who has worked for Gila County since 1991. He began work in the Juvenile Detention Facility then later transferred to the Facilities Management Department in 1997. Gabe's easy going personality is appreciated especially when the job is difficult. He is a Licensed Certified Locksmith in residential, commercial, and correctional security. His other talents include dry-wall, painting, stucco and plumbing. He is always willing to help anyone when they need assistance. After work, he usually heads to his second job which involves auto body work and painting. He is married to Sandy and their daughter's name is Belle. Recently, at the February 25th Board of Supervisor's Meeting, Gabe was recognized for 10 years of service to the County. Facilities Management is glad to have him as part of their team.



The Roads Department has been busy with numerous projects. The Copper Region did a patching project on the Fairgrounds road, an overlay project on Old Oak St. in Claypool and

CONSOLIDATED ROADS

& Shop

that large old cottonwood tree that hung out over the road on Old Hwy 88 is no longer a problem. The Tonto Basin crew completed the guardrail project above the Packard School in Punkin Center and is currently ferrying food and medicines across Tonto Creek, with the assistance of Search and Rescue and Emergency Services, since it is running too high for residents to cross safely. District II Supervisor Joe Sanchez was given the opportunity to cross Tonto Creek with Lonny Cline and said it was an experience he will never forget. The culvert project at the Sheriff's Office is ongoing and we have also been involved with the Central Heights School renovation project, hauling material and laying back the slope above the school. Currently crack sealing streets, getting ready for the chip seal project and the vegetation control program is always ongoing. Also, have been cleaning culverts and blading roads and crossings in the Dripping Springs area and around town. At their February 25th meeting, the Board of Supervisor's presented John Root, the Globe Shop Supervisor, with a plaque for his service to the County. John began working in the maintenance field right out of high school with Cobre Valley Motors. Awards were also given to Mike Horta and John Hoopes. Staff from both regions attended a LTAP CPR/First Aid class at the Fairgrounds the week of March 17-21, as well as a training session on how to properly clean and sanitize water containers, taught by Dave Pote March 21. The Timber Region Road Department has been busy the last three months plowing snow. They were lucky enough to receive up to 68 inches of total accumulation in the Colcord area, and 38 inches of total accumulation in Strawberry. Service Awards were presented to Tony Quill, Glen Farnham, and Nyra Hillery at the Board of Supervisors meeting held in Payson, March 25. They welcome two new employees, David (Smokey) Slaughter started work March 19th, and Wesley Wilson started work the 26th. Both employees accepted the Road Maintenance Worker II positions. We're excited to tell everyone that Jim Vickers is doing very well—he stopped in the office and looks great! He has an awesome, positive attitude, and will be returning to work 4/28/03. Jim wanted to express his deep appreciation to everyone for their cards, prayers, and wishes. Mariano Gonzalez from Emergency Services appointed Casey Stuart as the Chairperson for the "2003 Shoot For The Cure Breast Cancer Awareness" fundraiser. Glen Farnham won First Place in the Business Class Pinewood Derby held March 29, and was sponsored by AutoZone. He broke the winning streak which has been held by DPS for many years.



The Regional Payson Area Project has partnered up with the Gila County Buckhead Mesa Landfill to have a brush pit drop off site available on Sundays. Over

Solid Waste

400 residents in the area have taken advantage of the drop off site to clear brush, pine needles, and trees killed by the bark beetles from their properties. On Mondays, the Landfill Equipment Operators go in and push the pile up, so it's ready for burning by the fire department. In addition, the Russell Gulch Landfill accepted 688 tires from the Globe Clean and Beautiful



Tire Disposal Day, which was held at Big O Tire on Saturday, March 22. The collected tires were then hauled off to the Landfill tire yard.

